Update on COVID-19 From the Town of Needham and Needham Public Health

April 23, 2020 – The Town of Needham and Needham Public Health today provided the following update regarding COVID-19.

State DPH COVID-19 Numbers

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reporting that as of April 23, 2020 there are:

- 46,023 cases statewide
- 4,541 cases Norfolk County
- 2,360 deaths statewide
- 156 cases in Needham (as reported by DPH on 4/22)

It's important to remember that most people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 recover. For more state data, visit www.mass.gov/coronavirus.

Hospitals Urge People Experiencing Medical Emergencies to Seek Care

Boston-area hospitals are urging residents who are experiencing emergency illnesses other than COVID-19 to seek appropriate medical care. Hospitals have seen a decrease in residents seeking treatment for medical issues like heart attacks, strokes and injuries as people are concerned about contracting COVID-19. Hospitals have launched a PSA encouraging residents to seek care and assuring patients that Emergency Rooms are clean and safe. Watch the PSA.

Check Your Symptoms for COVID-19 Online

The state is reminding people that they can now check their symptoms for COVID-19 online through Buoy.com/mass. **Buoy's online tool is not to be used in place of emergency medical care. If you are experiencing an emergency, call 911 or visit the nearest emergency room.** Massachusetts residents can visit Buoy to get advice from an online health assistant safely at home, for free. Buoy will connect you with the appropriate health care resource based on your symptoms and risk factors for COVID-19.

Here's how it works:

1. Tell Buoy about your symptoms and risk factors
2. Figure out if you should be tested for COVID-19
3. Get directed to the most appropriate health care resource
4. Learn about the virus, access prevention tips, and more

Support BID-Needham Healthcare Workers

To support frontline caregivers, Beth Israel Deaconess Needham has established the Healthcare Heroes Fund (HHF) to provide essential resources to employees affected by, and incurring additional costs as a result of, the COVID-19 State of Emergency. Funds donated by the community will be used to assist workers with resources like groceries, childcare, transportation, housing and other costs associated with COVID-19. You can donate to the Healthcare Heroes Fund here.

Share Your Good News

While this is a difficult time for many of us, the Coronavirus pandemic has brought out the best in our community. In the survey we issued earlier this month, you told us you want more positive stories from Needham. So, tell us – what positive stories are out there? You can email goodnews@needhamma.gov to share your story. We'll post stories, photos and videos on our website and on in our Daily Updates. We also share these stories on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Be sure to follow us!

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